

The Empty Tomb Life

1 Corinthians 15:58; Coast Community Church; Earl Miles; 3-31-24

So what does an 'empty tomb' life look like?

1. **The 'Therefore' Life: The Christian life is driven by reason.**

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58) Paul is drawing a practical conclusion from the arguments he has just made affirming the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Sunday Evening: 'How did this happen?' – John 20:19

Sun	'Palm Sunday'
Mon	'Cleansing Monday'
Tues	'Teaching Tuesday'
Wed	'Spy Wednesday'
Thurs	'Maundy Thursday'
Fri	'Good Friday'
Sat	'Black Saturday'
Sun	'Easter Sunday'

Interpreting the Evidence: 'What just happened?' – Luke 24:36-37

Historical Fact #1: The tomb of Jesus of Nazareth was discovered empty.

Historical Fact #2: Many people experienced appearances of Jesus alive after his death.

Historical Fact #3: The followers of Jesus believed in the resurrection.

Naturalistic Explanation #1: The disciples faked the resurrection.

Naturalistic Explanation #2: Jesus didn't really die.

Naturalistic Explanation #3: The body of Jesus was displaced from the first tomb and the disciples found it empty.

Naturalistic Explanation #4: The disciples didn't really see Jesus but were all hallucinating.

The four most popular naturalistic theories fail to explain the historical facts. – Justin Taylor

Conviction: 'What do we do now?' – Mark 16:1-8

Application: Belief in the resurrection of Jesus should produce a 'therefore' life: *'Therefore, I can live and should live no other way than this.'* The Christian life is driven by reason. It is not a blind faith, but a reasonable faith in what is unseen. *What should this mean for my life if Jesus rose from the dead? I cannot ignore what He said and did and not suffer grave consequences.*

2. The 'Work of the Lord' Life: The Christian life is driven by reliance.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58) Belief in the resurrection should focus our lives on believing, and encouraging others to believe, in Jesus.

What is the 'work of the Lord'? (John 6:26-29) Belief in Jesus is THE work that God is up to in our lives and in the world.

What does it mean to 'believe'? (John 3:13-18; Numbers 21:6-9) Look to Jesus!

What are we to 'look to Jesus' for? (John 14:1-9) *For holiness as the Way.* Jesus is the way of acceptance with God: Rest in Jesus for the Father's love! *For help as the Truth.* We can confidently pursue love as Jesus has commanded in light of all He promises. *For happiness as the Life.* We can confidently hope in God for full and lasting happiness.

Application: Belief in the resurrection of Jesus should produce a 'work of the Lord' life: *'I must believe in Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life in every situation and encourage others to do the same!'* The Christian life is driven by reliance. I am to rely on Jesus for all the help I need and all the happiness my heart longs for. *What should I believe about Jesus if He rose from the dead? Jesus is the answer to every meaningful question that I have.*

3. The 'Not in Vain' Life: The Christian life is driven by reward.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58) Life for the believer in Jesus is an investment in the future kingdom of God and not a moment or an experience is wasted.

Things Too Wonderful for Me (Job 42:1-6) Job came to see that God is up to wonderful things in the lives of His people, no matter how dark it gets.

Application: Belief in the resurrection of Jesus should produce a 'not in vain' life: *'My losses and sufferings and trials and gains and blessings are all intended for God's glory and my good now and in the world to come.'* The Christian life is driven by reward. The ultimate reward is God Himself and all that He has prepared for those who trust His Son. *What kind of hope should I have in every situation if Jesus rose from the dead? My story is not done and the end of the story will be more wonderful than I can imagine.*

The key claim of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. What are we to do? **Look to Jesus! In everything. For everything.** This is the Christian life. This is the 'empty tomb' life!